

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

OUSD to Announce \$13.3M Plan to Connect All Oakland Public School K-12 Students with Home Laptops and Data Enabled Hotspots

Oakland - On Friday, August 18, Superintendent Dr. Kyla Johnson-Trammell will announce the \$13.3M Emergency Connectivity Fund grant awarded to OUSD at the #OaklandUndivided Connected Community Celebration. The superintendent will be joined by Assemblymember Mia Bonta, City Councilmember Treva Reid, Oakland's Chief of Education & Community Safety Brooklyn Williams, and the #OaklandUndivided (#OU) Coalition as well as community partners, additional local elected officials, and signature funding partners Amazon, Gilead, and PG&E.

Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) has been awarded \$13.3M from the federal Emergency Connectivity Fund. This was one of the largest awards granted in the country and enables the purchase of thousands of home chromebooks and unlimited, data-enabled 5G hotspots to serve all students from households in need. This extends the collective commitment made by the #OaklandUndivided coalition to ensure that all Oakland public school students have access to a computer, internet, and culturally competent tech support. Since its inception in 2020, the #OaklandUndivided Coalition including OUSD, public charter schools, Headstart, many Bay Area colleges including Cal State East Bay, Mills College, Peralta Community College District, San Francisco State University, and UC Berkeley - has distributed more than 50,000 laptops and 20,000 hotspots for student home use to ensure all public school students - from cradle to career - have the tools of a 21st century education.

This event is also an Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) enrollment event for students and families of the co-located ACORN Woodland and EnCompass Academy elementary schools. ACP is a new federal benefit which provides eligible families with a discount of up to \$30 per month on new or existing internet service. All households with a kindergarten through 12th grade OUSD student qualify for this benefit as OUSD is a U.S. Department of Agriculture Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) district. Trained volunteers from #OaklandUndivided, TechExchange, and NextGen Policy will be providing families with their CEP eligibility documents and supporting them through the enrollment process.

Additionally, El Timpano will be conducting a Community Testimonial Project in which staff will ask families to answer a number of questions regarding how they access the internet, their overall internet experience, and about connectivity barriers faced within the community. Feedback received will be incorporated into #OaklandUndivided's [Broadband Voices](#) project aimed at informing the State Digital Equity Plan required by Assemblymember Bonta's AB 2750. This bill requires the California Department of Technology to work with community members to identify barriers to digital equity faced by specified populations and "measurable objectives towards achieving digital equity among those populations." The plan will help inform the State's once-in-a-generation \$7B investment in Broadband for All.

#OaklandUndivided has been recognized as a [trailblazer](#) by the National Digital Inclusion Alliance and featured in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#), [Univision](#), [Telemundo](#), [Broadband Breakfast](#), and a leading voice in the [FCC's digital discrimination hearing](#). To see the full list of partners and endorsers as well as opportunities to learn

more, volunteer, donate, or join the movement to keep #OaklandUndivided - please visit www.oaklandundivided.org. For more information on our impact, please see our [2023-2024 Impact Report](#).

WHAT: #OaklandUndivided Connected Community Celebration

WHEN: 3:30 p.m., Friday, August 18 (Press Conference begins at 5:30 pm)

WHERE: ACORN Woodland & EnCompass Elementary Schools Outdoor Amphitheater, 1025 81st Avenue

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#OaklandUndivided launched three years ago, shortly after the pandemic began, as a partnership between Oakland Unified School District, The City of Oakland, Tech Exchange, The Oakland Public Education Fund, Oakland Promise, and more than 20 other community partners - including All City Council, The Greenlining Institute, Homies Empowerment, The Kapor Center, Oakland Housing Authority, El Timpano, The Oakland REACH, and the NAACP - to ensure that all Oakland public school students could access online learning. To date, the equity-based, collective impact initiative has distributed over 50,000 laptops and over 20,000 hotspots and responded to more than 20,000 tech response requests. In the 2022-2023 school year, the City of Oakland launched a new website (www.oaklandca.gov/freeinternet), and #OaklandUndivided started a citywide awareness campaign to enroll eligible households in the Affordable Connectivity Plan, a new federal program that provides a \$30 per month home internet discount. The campaign began with awareness and enrollment support for OUSD, where all households are eligible because all district schools participate in the Community Eligibility Program.